

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

Case No. 23-cv-24815-BLOOM/Torres

ISAAC HERES,

Plaintiff,

v.

MEDICREDIT, INC.,

Defendant.

**ORDER SETTING TRIAL AND PRE-TRIAL SCHEDULE, REQUIRING
MEDIATION, AND REFERRING CERTAIN MATTERS TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

THIS CAUSE is set for trial during the Court's two-week trial calendar beginning on **January 27, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.** Calendar call will be held at **1:45 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.** No pre-trial conference will be held unless a party requests one at a later date and the Court determines that one is necessary. Unless instructed otherwise by subsequent order, the trial and all other proceedings in this case shall be conducted in **Courtroom 10-2 at the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. United States Courthouse, 400 North Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33128.** The parties shall adhere to the following schedule:

February 7, 2024 Parties exchange initial disclosures pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1). The parties are reminded that pursuant to S.D. Fla. L.R. 26.1(b), initial disclosures shall not be filed with the Court unless an exception noted in the Local Rules applies.

February 14, 2024 The parties shall select a mediator pursuant to Local Rule 16.2, shall **schedule a time, date, and place for mediation**, and shall jointly **file a notice, and proposed order scheduling mediation** via CM/ECF in the form specified on the Court's website, <http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov>. If the parties cannot agree on a mediator, they shall notify the Clerk in writing as soon as possible, and the Clerk shall designate a certified mediator on a blind rotation basis. Counsel for all parties shall familiarize themselves with and adhere to all provisions of Local Rule 16.2. Within **three (3) days** of mediation, the parties are required to file a mediation

report with the Court. Pursuant to the procedures outlined in the CM/ECF Administrative Procedures, **the proposed order is also to be emailed to bloom@flsd.uscourts.gov in Word format.**

March 25, 2024	All motions to amend pleadings or join parties are filed.
September 3, 2024	Parties disclose experts and exchange expert witness summaries or reports.
September 17, 2024	Parties exchange rebuttal expert witness summaries or reports.
October 1, 2024	All discovery, including expert discovery, is completed.
October 15, 2024	Parties must have completed mediation and filed a mediation report.
October 23, 2024	All dispositive pre-trial motions and <i>Daubert</i> motions (which include motions to strike experts) are filed. This deadline does not include motions <i>in limine</i> but includes all other pre-trial motions.
January 13, 2025	Parties submit joint pre-trial stipulation in accordance with Local Rule 16.1(e), a joint summary of the parties' motion(s) <i>in limine</i> , proposed jury instructions and verdict form, or proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, as applicable.

A Joint Summary of the Parties' Motion(s) in Limine. The joint summary must contain a cover page providing the style of the case and an index of the motion(s) *in limine*. For each evidentiary issue, the joint summary must include: a one-page argument identifying the evidence sought to be excluded or included at trial and citing legal authority supporting exclusion or inclusion; and a one-page response to the argument citing legal authority in support of admission or exclusion of the disputed evidence. The parties must work together to prepare the joint summary and are encouraged to resolve evidentiary issues through stipulation. Motions *in limine* will not be accepted in any other form.

Daubert Motions. Each party is limited to filing one *Daubert* motion. If all evidentiary issues cannot be addressed in a 20-page memorandum, leave to exceed the page limit will be granted. **The parties are reminded that *Daubert* motions must contain the Local Rule 7.1(a)(3) certification.**

Summary Judgment Motions. The parties are reminded that strict compliance with Local Rule 56.1 is mandated. Pursuant to Local Rule 56.1(b), a statement of material facts must be supported by *specific* references to pleadings, depositions, answers to interrogatories, admissions, and affidavits on file with the Court. In the event a responding party fails to controvert a movant's supported material facts in an opposing statement of material facts, the movant's material facts will be deemed admitted. Local Rule 56.1(c). In the interest of judicial economy, in the interest of proper and careful consideration of each party's statement of material facts, and in the interest of determining matters on summary judgment on the merits, the Court orders as follows:

1. Each exhibit referenced in the motion for summary judgment and/or in the statement of material facts must be filed on the docket. Exhibits which have already been filed on the docket *need not be refiled*. If a deposition transcript is referenced, a complete copy must be filed **which includes all exhibits**. Within twenty-four (24) hours of filing a motion for summary judgment, the movant shall separately file an index of the cited exhibits which names each exhibit and references the docket entry at which that exhibit may be found.
2. Each exhibit referenced in the response to the motion for summary judgment and/or in the opposing statement of material facts must be filed on the docket. Exhibits which have already been filed on the docket *need not be refiled*. If a deposition transcript is relied upon, a complete copy must be filed **which includes all exhibits**. Within twenty-four (24) hours of filing a response to the motion for summary judgment, the responding party shall separately file an index of the cited exhibits which names each exhibit and references the docket entry at which that exhibit may be found.

3. In the event that cross motions for summary judgment are filed, the Court may order the parties to submit a consolidated statement of material facts and responses as appropriate. If cross motions are anticipated, the parties may jointly move for an order to file consolidated statements prior to filing the motions for summary judgment.

Jury Instructions and Verdict Form (if applicable). The parties shall submit their proposed jury instructions and verdict form jointly, although they need not agree on each proposed instruction. Where the parties do not agree on a proposed instruction, that instruction shall be set forth in bold type. Instructions proposed only by a plaintiff shall be underlined. Instructions proposed only by a defendant shall be italicized. Every instruction must be supported by citation to authority. The parties shall use as a guide the Eleventh Circuit Pattern Jury Instructions for Civil Cases, including the directions to counsel contained therein. Proposed jury instructions and verdict form, in typed form, including substantive charges and defenses, shall be submitted to the Court prior to calendar call, in Word format, via e-mail to bloom@flsd.uscourts.gov. Instructions for filing proposed documents may be viewed at <http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov>.

Referral to Magistrate Judge. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636 and this District's Magistrate Judge Rules, all discovery matters are referred to **Chief Magistrate Judge Edwin G. Torres**. Furthermore, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(1), the parties may consent to trial and final disposition by Magistrate Judge Torres. **The deadline for submitting consent is October 23, 2024.**

Discovery. The parties may stipulate to extend the time to answer interrogatories, produce documents, and answer requests for admissions. The parties shall not file with the Court notices or motions memorializing any such stipulation unless the stipulation interferes with the deadlines

set forth above. Stipulations that would so interfere may be made only with the Court's approval. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 29. To the extent not abrogated or contradicted by this Order, all agreements and stipulations entered into between the parties prior to this Order continue to bind the parties. The Court reminds the parties that under the Local Rules, initial and expert disclosures; deposition transcripts; interrogatories; requests for documents, electronically stored information or things, or to permit entry upon land; requests for admission; notices of taking depositions or notices of serving subpoenas; and associated responses, objections, notices or any associated proof of service, **shall not be filed until they are used in the proceeding or the court orders their filing.** S.D. Fla. L.R. 26.1(b). Improper filings will be stricken from the record. In addition to the documents enumerated in Local Rule 26.1(b), the parties shall not file notices of deposition with the Court. The parties must make every effort to resolve discovery disputes without requiring Court intervention. Strict compliance with the Local Rules is expected.

Discovery Disputes. If parties are unable to resolve their discovery disputes without Court intervention, the parties must contact Magistrate Judge Torres's chambers—which are located at 99 Northeast Fourth Street, 10th floor, Miami, FL 33132—via telephone at (305) 523-5750 to ascertain the available dates and times for a discovery hearing. Magistrate Judge Torres holds a discovery calendar every Thursday and only on Thursdays. The parties should further consult Magistrate Judge Torres's standing discovery order, which sets forth procedures to presenting discovery disputes and will be issued following the entry of this Order. The individual calling Magistrate Judge Torres's chambers must leave a message that identifies only the parties' case number and a call back number if the individual's call goes to voicemail.

Magistrate Judge Torres expects all parties to act courteously and professionally in the resolution of their discovery disputes and to confer in an attempt to resolve the discovery issue

prior to requesting the hearing. The Court may impose sanctions, monetary or otherwise, if the Court determines discovery is being improperly sought or is not being provided in good faith.

Civility and Professionalism. Members of the bar and the Court are proud of the long tradition of courteous practice in the Southern District of Florida. Indeed, it is a fundamental tenet of this Court that attorneys in this District be governed at all times by a spirit of cooperation, professionalism, and civility. For example, and without limiting the foregoing, it remains the Court's expectation that counsel will seek to accommodate their fellow practitioners, including in matters of scheduling, whenever reasonably possible and that counsel will work to eliminate disputes by reasonable agreement to the fullest extent permitted by the bounds of zealous representation and ethical practice.

To that end, the Court advises the parties that strict compliance with the requirements of Local Rule 7.1(a)(3) is expected. In addition, if a motion for extension of time is opposed, this Court requires that the certificate of conferral state briefly the reason(s) for opposing counsel's objection to the requested extension.

The parties are further advised that the failure to comply with any of the procedures contained in this Order or the Local Rules may result in the imposition of appropriate sanctions, including, but not limited to, the dismissal of this action or entry of default.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers at Miami, Florida, on January 24, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JB' or similar, written over a horizontal line.

BETH BLOOM
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies to:

Counsel of Record